THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHANLAM): (a) and (b) M|s. Jaipur Udyog Limited having its cement plant at Sawai Madhopur and jute unit at Kanpur is being managed by a Board of Management, consisting of representatives from the Central Government, Government of Rajasthan, State Bank of India and Promoters' Nominees/Representatives.

The State Bank of India was providing working capital facilities since December, 1979. This facility was stopped by them from 31-7-86 to 11-8-86 and again from 18-10-86 to 20-10-86. This resulted in stoppage of production activities on account of which the company suffered a loss of about Rs. 1 crore. The State Bank of India withdrew this facility again from 3-7-87 which resulted in complete stoppage of production activities.

The company has suffered a loss of about Rs. 8 crores since 5-7-87 and there has been a loss to the Government exchequer to the tune of Rs. 20 crores in the form of excise duty, sale tax, royalty, railway freight etc.

In order to resolve the deadlock, discussions were held with the representatives of State Bank of India, the Government of Rajasthan, financial institutions etc.

The Government of Rajasthan have now given a guarantee of about Rs 197 lakhs to the State Bank of India and the working capital facility of the said amount has been restored with effect from 29-2-88. The operations of the cement unit are likely to be resumed shortly. In the case of Kanpur Udyog, the State Government of U.P. have been approached by the company for giving a similar guarantee of about Rs. 60 lakhs to State Bank of India for restarting its operation.

The Board of Industrial & Financial Reconstruction to whom reference has been made by the Rajasthan Government and the company had appointed IRBI as operating agency to prepare a viability report for both the cement and the jute units. It is understood that the IRBI has already submitted its report to BIFR. Further action with regard to rehabilitation of both the units will be taken after BIFR have finalised their views.

Maintenance of Telecommunication Equipments

1177. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:
SHRI K. MOHANAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have deided to do away with the maintenane of telecommunication equipments in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the compelling circumstances for the Government to take such a drastic decision?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Proposal for setting up of Naptha cracker unit in Visakhapatnam

1178. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is today importing Rs. 1000 crore worth of petrochemicals annually;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these Petrochemicals can be indigenously manufactured;

(c) whether any proposal of the Andhra Pradesh State Government to set up a Rs. 1800 crore Naptha Crac-